

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7999

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMKONSUL LENINGRAD 2831

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY MARCH 11

USIA FOR IOP/M

1. MIDDLE EAST. IZVESTIYA (MARCH 10) ARTICLE BY CORRESPONDENT KORYAVIN REPORTS FAVORABLE PLO RESPONSE TO SYRIA'S PROPOSAL FOR A UNIFIED PLO-SYRIAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMAND. ARTICLE SAYS PALESTINIAN CIRCLES HAVE WELCOMED ASAD'S STATEMENT TO U.S. JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING THE SECRETARY THAT A SYRIAN-PLO JOINT COMMAND WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PLO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

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2. PRAVDA (MARCH 11) REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION HAS ENDED ITS VISIT TO JORDAN. AMMAN-DATLINED TASS SUMMARY OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE (TEXT NOT PUBLISHED) FORTAINS STANDARD CALL FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE BASED ON TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LANDS OCCUPIED IN 1967. HOWEVER, SUMMARY UNUSUALLY REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO ISRAELI EVACUATION FROM THE ARAB QUARTERS OF JERUSALEM. COMMUNIQUE, ACCORDING TO TASS, ALSO CALLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 AND FOR GUARANTEE OF PALESTINIAN "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS."

3. U.S. DOMESTIC. IZVESTIYA NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT KOBYSH REPORTS THAT 4 MILLION AMERICANS OVER 65 LIVE IN HUNGER WITHOUT MEDICAL AID. KOBYSH COMPARES THEIR LIFE STYLE WITH "PASSIVE METHOD" OF SUICIDE. LENGTHY IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY BY CHEPRAKOV DETAILS U.S. ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AS FURTHER INDICATION OF THE DECLINING CONDITION OF CAPITALISM. RED STAR SIGNED COMMENTARY ON PENTAGON BUDGET LISTS EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURES IN COMING FISCAL YEAR AND SAYS THAT THE PENTAGON CONTINUES TO DEVOTE "HEIGHTENED ATTENTION" TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS. THE COMMENTARY SAYS THAT AMERICAN SOCIETY WITH JUSTIFICATION SEES INCREASED MILITARY EXPENDITURES AS A MAIN SOURCE OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS. IT CONCLUDES THAT "AS CAN BE SEEN, THE MILITARY/INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX OF AMERICA DOES NOT INTEND TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE DANGEROUS COURSE OF MILITARISM..." PRAVDA CARRIES TASS REPORT FROM NEW YORK REPLAYING NEW YORK TIMES AND NEW YORK POST ARTICLES ON DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING EMPLOYMENT MET BY "FORMER SOVIET CITIZENS" WHO HAVE EMIGRATED TO THE U.S. (SEPTTEL).

4. U.S.-FOREIGN. IZVESTIYA COMMENTATOR BORISOV WRITES THAT ACCORDING TO A RECENT PENTAGON ANNOUNCEMENT U.S. NAVAL UNITS WILL CONTINUE TO CRUISE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND PERSIAN GULF. THIS, BORISOV SAYS, SHOWS THAT THE U.S. IS HASTENING TO ESTABLISH ITS CONTROL OVER THE PERSIAN GULF. THIS U.S. ACTION, HE CHARGES, "IS LEADING TO THE CREATION OF A CENTER OF TENSION AND THREATENS THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION."

5. SIGNED COMMENTARY IN RED STAR SAYS THAT SIMONSTOWN BASE IN SOUTH AFRICA IN AMERICAN PLANS WILL BECOME ANOTHER LINK IN CHAIN OF BASES EXTENDING AROUND THE INDIAN OCEAN.
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6. PRAVDA CARRIES REPORT THAT BHUTTO HAS SAID PAKISTAN WILL NOT MAKE AVAILABLE MILITARY BASES TO THE U.S. IN EXCHANGE FOR REMOVAL OF THE ARMS EMBARGO. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTS THAT ANOTHER SALT TWO SESSION WAS HELD IN GENEVA MARCH 10.

7. PORTUGAL. PRAVDA CARRIES ASS REPORT ON SPEECH BY PORTUGUESE CP LEADER CUNHAL IN WHICH HE EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER MANY

EACTIONARY ACTS AIMED AT A SHARP INCREASE IN TENSION IN THE NATION'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. TASS CITES CUNHAL AS CLAIMING THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN WITH THE AIM OF ESTABLISHING A REACTIONARY REGIME.

8. ASIA. A TASS REPORT FROM NEW YORK IN PRAVDA CARRIES STATEMENT BY SENATOR HUMPHREY CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE, FULL, AND UNCONDITIONAL CESSATION OF AMERICAN MILITARY AID TO LON NOL. EDITORIAL BY NEW YORK TIMES CALLING FOR SIMILAR ACTION IS ALSO REPORTED IN PRAVDA. PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT IN HANOI REPORTS ON RUMORS THAT THE LON NOL LEADERSHIP IS PREPARING TO FLEE THE CAMBODIAN CAPITAL. IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY SAYS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO PRESS CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL OF AID; HOWEVER, "THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE DECISIVELY SPEAKING OUT AGAINST SUCH ACTION."

9. LATIN AMERICA. PRAVDA CARRIES TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION ON CHILEAN CRIMES MEETING IN MEXICO. STATEMENT, ACCORDING TO PRAVDA TEXT, CHARGES U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ALLENDE'S DOWNFALL VIOLATED BOTH THE UN CHARTER AND PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. STATEMENT CLAIMS SCALE OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN ONLY PARTLY REVEALED BECAUSE "HIGHLY PLACED OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ARE NOT INTERESTED" IN PROVIDING INFORMATION. HOWEVER, EVEN WHAT HAS BEEN ADMITTED CONSTITUTES PART OF AN EFFECTIVE PLAN WORKED OUT BY U.S. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND MULTILATERAL CORPORATIONS TO UNDERMINE ALLENDE'S GOVERNMENT.

10. ALSO ON LATIN AMERICA SIGNED IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY (LAPSKIY) CITES COLUMBIA'S DECISION TO RESTORE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF CUBA'S GROWING AUTHORITY IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE. LAPSKIY SAYS THAT AMONG LATIN STATES THERE IS A GROWING UNDERSTANDING THAT THE U.S. IS MASKING ITS EFFORT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CREATE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE EXTORTION OF LATIN RESOURCES BEHIND WARNINGS ABOUT THE "COMMUNIST DANGER." IMPORTANT CHANGES ARE OCCURRING IN LATIN AMERICA, LAPSKIY CONCLUDES, AND MOVEMENT IS GROWING TO END THE CUBAN BLOCKADE WHOSE PRESERVATION BY THE U.S. IS AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE LATIN THEMSELVES. STOESEL

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